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Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a first delay circuit configured for programmably delaying a strobe signal with a first delay to latch a data signal, wherein the first delay circuit has an associated overhead delay that may vary based on fabrication process variations or operating conditions or both fabrication process variations and operating conditions of the first delay circuit, the overhead delay adding to the programmed first delay; and

a second delay circuit in close proximity to the first delay circuit, the close proximity of the first and second delay circuits generating substantially identical fabrication process variations and operating conditions in the first and second delay circuits and generating substantially the same overhead delay in the second delay circuit, the second delay circuit configured for delaying the data signal with a second delay that is substantially identical to the overhead delay of the first delay circuit to compensate for overhead delay associated with the first delay.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a logic circuit communicatively coupled between the first and the second delay circuits and configured for latching the data signal substantially aligned with the strobe signal.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the logic circuit comprises a flip/flop device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a master delay circuit configured for locking a clock signal and for programming the first delay circuit with the first delay therefrom.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the second delay comprises a duration that is less than a cycle duration of the clock signal.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of the first and the second delay circuits.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of latching a data signal, comprising steps of:

programmably delaying a strobe signal with a first delay, wherein the first delay has an associated overhead delay that may vary based on fabrication process variations or operating conditions or both fabrication process variations and operating conditions of a ~~circuit~~ first circuitry generating the first delay, the overhead delay adding to the programmed first delay;

delaying the data signal with a second delay that is substantially identical to the overhead delay of the first delay, wherein the second delay is generated by second circuitry in close proximity to the first circuitry, the close proximity of the first and second circuitry generating substantially identical fabrication process variations and operating conditions in the first and second circuitry and generating substantially the same overhead delay in the second delay, and the second delay compensating for the overhead delay associated with the first delay; and

registering the data signal responsive to the first delay using the strobe signal.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of locking a clock signal to generate a control signal that programmably delays the strobe signal with the first delay.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of locking comprises a step of simultaneously transferring the control signal through a plurality of control lines to uniformly perform the step of programmably delaying.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of delaying the data signal comprises a step of generating the second delay such that the duration of the second delay is less than a cycle duration of the clock signal.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of registering the data signal comprises steps of:

receiving the data signal; and

latching the data signal with the strobe signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for latching a data signal, comprising:

means for programmably delaying a strobe signal with a first delay, wherein the first delay has an associated overhead delay that may vary based on fabrication process variations or operating conditions or both fabrication process variations and operating conditions of the means for generating the first delay, the overhead delay adding to the programmed first delay;

means for delaying the data signal with a second delay that is substantially identical to the overhead delay of the first delay, wherein the means for programmably delaying the strobe signal with the first delay and the means for delaying the data signal with the second delay are in close proximity, the close proximity generating substantially identical fabrication process variations and operating conditions in the means for programmably delaying the strobe signal with the first delay and the means for delaying the data signal with the second delay and generating substantially the same overhead delay in the second delay, the second delay compensating for the overhead delay associated with the first delay; and

means for registering the data signal responsive to the first delay using the strobe signal.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for locking a clock signal to generate a control signal that programmably delays the strobe signal with the first delay.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for locking comprises means for simultaneously transferring the control signal through a plurality of control lines to uniformly perform the means for programmably delaying.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the means for delaying the data signal comprises means for generating the second delay such that the duration of the second delay is less than a cycle duration of the clock signal.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the means for registering the data signal comprises:

means for receiving the data signal; and

means for latching the data signal with the strobe signal.

18. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a first delay circuit configured for programmably delaying a first signal with a first delay to provide a delayed first signal, wherein the first delay circuit has an associated overhead delay that may vary based on fabrication process variations or operating conditions or both fabrication process variations and operating conditions of the first delay circuit, the overhead delay adding to the programmed first delay; and

a second delay circuit in close proximity to the first delay circuit, the close proximity of the first and second delay circuits generating substantially identical fabrication process variations and operating conditions in the first and second delay circuits and generating substantially the same overhead delay in the second delay circuit, the second delay circuit configured for delaying the first signal with a second delay that is substantially identical to the overhead delay of the first delay circuit to compensate for the overhead delay associated with the first delay and to latch the delayed first signal.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, further comprising monitor logic communicatively coupled between the first and the second delay circuits and configured for latching the delayed first signal in substantial alignment with the first signal.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the monitor logic is further adapted to provide timing for the system that corresponds with the first signal and to program the first delay circuit with the first delay therefrom.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the second delay comprises a duration that is less than a cycle duration of the first signal.

22. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a plurality of the first and the second delay circuits.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second delay circuits comprise substantially the same circuitry.

25. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the first and second delay circuits comprise substantially the same circuitry.